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On 3 July 1951 a conference was held in an unidentified DDR ministry regarding the status of DDR reserves of medium thick sheet metal (3 to 5 mm.). This discussion was prompted by an application from the firm of Ventilatorzug (Gesellschaft für Ventilatorzug, GmbH) in Velten, Brandenburg, for the release of 1,5 tons of medium thick sheet metal needed to complete an air warmer for the Finkenheerd power station. This air warmer is to have a heating surface of 1,530 square moters, and the planned delivery date is 1 September 1951. The Finkenheerd power station is expanding, in order to be able to provide supplementary current for the Eisen muttenkombinat-Ost steel works in Furstenberg/Oder. A spokesman for the DDR government stated at the 3 July conference that the entire DDR reserves of medium sheet netal consisted of only a very few tons in excess of the 45 tons requested by Ventilatorzug. He added that no new supplies of medium sheet may be expected during July or August 1951 and remarked that a recent large reparations contract had required nearly all the reserves of sheet metal of those dimensions available in the DDR. Another employee of the ministry also present at the conference ventured the opinion that the only solution would be the procurement of supplies of medium sheet metal from the West.

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